Save the Children

ENGINE: Empowering New Generations to Improve Nutrition and Economic Opportunities

A project supported by the US Global Health and Feed the Future Initiatives

Year III Quarterly Progress Report

October 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

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Contents

Acronyms

ACoE	Academic Center of Excellence
AEWs	Agriculture Extension Workers
AGP	Agriculture Growth Program
AMde	Agribusiness and Market Development in Ethiopia
ATVET	Agriculture Technical and Vocational Education and Training
CBM	Community-based management
CC	Community Conversation
CF	Combined feeding
CHDs	Child Health Days
CoE	Center of excellence
DAs	Development Agents
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DRMFSS	Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector
DZARC	Debre Zeit Agricultural Research Center
EB	Experimental Biology
EBF	Exclusive breastfeeding
ECCs	Enhanced Community Conversations
EHNR	Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute
EIAR	Ethiopia Institute of Agricultural Research
ENGINE	Empowering New Generations to Improve Nutrition and Economic Opportunities
EOC-DICAC	Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church Development and Inter-Church AID Commission
FANTA-3	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project
FBP	Food by Prescription
FCD	Food-cooking demonstrations
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FMoH	Federal Ministry of Health
FRI	Farm Radio International
FTC	Farmer training center
FtF	Feed the Future
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
GRAD	Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development
HEWs	Health Extension Workers
HFs	Health Facilities
HH	Household
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HP	Health Post
HWs	Health Workers
IFHP	Integrated Family Health Program
IRB	Institutional Review Board
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
JHU-CCP	Johns Hopkins University-Center for Communication Programs
LES	Livelihood and economic opportunities
LOE	Level of effort
LOL	Land O' Lakes, Inc.
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

MAIYCN	Maternal, Adolescent, Infant and Young Child Nutrition
MASHAV	Israeli Agency for International Development Cooperation
MFIs	Microfinance Institutions
MIYCN	Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSG	Mothers Support Group
MVHHs	Most Vulnerable Households
NACS	Nutrition Assessment, Counseling and Support
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NNCB	National Nutrition Coordinating Body
NNP	National Nutrition Program
NNTC	National Nutrition Technical Committee
OFDA	Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
PI	Principal Investigator
PSE	Pre-service Education
QI	Quality Improvement
RDQA	Routine Data Quality Assessment
RFP	Request for Proposal
RNCBs	Regional Nutrition Coordinating Bodies
RNTCs	Regional Nutrition Technical Committees
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SBCC	Social and Behavior Change Communication
SBM-R	Standards-Based Management and Recognition
SC	Save the Children
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region
SOW	Scope of Work
TOT	Training of Trainers
TSFP	Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Education Fund
VAT	Value Added Tax
VI	Valid International
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Executive summary

Project overview

ENGINE – Empowering New Generations to Improve Nutrition and Economic Opportunities – is USAID's $53 million, flagship nutrition project in Ethiopia. The core initiative of this large-scale, five-year project (2011 – 2016) is to prevent undernutrition during the first 1,000 days, from the start of pregnancy until the child is 2 years old, by focusing on social and behavior change communication (SBCC), including linkages to livelihood and economic opportunities (LES). The project aims to strengthen capacity for and institutionalize nutrition programs and policies; improve the quality and delivery of nutrition and health care services; prevent undernutrition through improved community-based nutrition care practices; and embrace a rigorous and innovative learning agenda.

Save the Children (SC) drives the implementation of ENGINE using a powerful, multi-sector platform comprised of evidence-based direct nutrition and nutrition sensitive interventions, fueled by existing government structures and synergistic partnerships with other USAID-funded projects. ENGINE has accelerated implementation of its integrated nutrition package to 83 Agriculture Growth Program (AGP) (food secure) *woredas* and will soon reach 17 non-AGP (food insecure) *woredas*.

SC effectively manages the integrated nutrition project interventions through a consortium of highly specialized and reputable technical experts including: Jhpiego, Tufts University, Valid International (VI), Land O'Lakes (LOL) and The Manoff Group. This quarter, Johns Hopkins University-Center for Communication Programs (JHU-CCP) phased-out its SBCC activities and transitioned these responsibilities to The Manoff Group and SC. VI began handing-over its field research activities to SC with international technical assistance (TA).

Achievements and successes

ENGINE made significant progress toward reaching its objectives in Year III covering the period from October 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013.

Nutrition multi-sector coordination and strategic partnerships

ENGINE was instrumental in strategically shaping and moving forward the multi-sector agenda of the National Nutrition Technical Committee (NNTC) and National Nutrition Coordinating Body (NNCB) by technically reviewing their revised annual work plans and facilitating roll-out of the National Nutrition Program (NNP) in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regions. ENGINE also actively participated in the NNCB December meeting. Based on ENGINE's successful track record, the State Minister of Health delegated ENGINE to support the establishment and implementation of all regional nutrition coordination bodies and technical committees, as well as to expedite regional NNP diffusion in close partnership with UNICEF, as a key action item from the NNCB meeting.

Nutrition multi-sector partnerships

ENGINE, in collaboration with USAID and Feed the Future (FtF) partners, organized a valuable exchange visit to Amhara region to monitor coordination of FtF nutrition activities at the grass-roots level – Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development (GRAD), Agribusiness and Market Development in Ethiopia (AMde), Israeli Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV) and ENGINE. The team promptly briefed the USAID FtF team on the main findings and action points from the joint trip, which were validated with data from ENGINE's

baseline survey and formative research. Additionally, ENGINE facilitated the quarterly nutrition technical working group (TWG) and expanded its partner membership to include MASHAV and the Integrated Family Health Program (IFHP).

Nutrition pre-service education (PSE)

ENGINE has made significant strides toward creating a nutrition academic center of excellence (CoE) at Hawassa University to advance the revised NNP and foster research on new and improved approaches to reduce stunting. In December, the PSE team organized a CoE exchange visit to a well-established CoE at North West University in South Africa with the participation of government, research and project stakeholders. At the end of the trip, the team learned that a successful CoE requires strong government buy-in; dedicated university leadership; adequate budget and facilities; and effective incentives to motivate staff such as access to knowledge; increased respect and status; and rewards for best performers. Following the visit, ENGINE has identified the critical materials needed to equip the CoE, and North West University has offered to provide technical support in building the research and laboratory capacity of Hawassa University staff.

Capacity building

ENGINE trained 546 (227 female) health and agricultural workers in nutrition. The project also integrated nutrition into 12 *woreda* level planning and review meetings, and conducted supervision visits at 229 health centers and 148 health posts with government counterparts. In building the local capacity of households, and agriculture workers in nutrition-sensitive agriculture, ENGINE trained 4,774 farmers (2,477 female) and government workers. ENGINE organized 28 agronomic demonstration events at 15 farmer training centers (FTCs) and 13 schools with active participation from 4,009 farmers. ENGINE also built the capacity of health workers, agricultural extension workers and school teachers by conducting 196 interactive cooking events at health facilities, FTCs and schools to demonstrate optimal nutrition behaviors for 18,820 parents in the target communities (15,165 female). At the health center level, health workers counseled 54,014 pregnant and 23,317 lactating mothers on infant and maternal nutrition; 47,652 pregnant women and 11,935 lactating mothers received iron-folate supplements. At health post level, health extension workers counseled 41,764 mothers during postnatal visits and provided 31.428 mothers with iron-folate supplements. Similarly, 938,189 under-5 children and 645,847 2-5 year-old children received vitamin A and de-worming tablets.

Social and behavior change communication (SBCC) strategy

This quarter, ENGINE conducted a rigorous analysis of the expansive dataset from the project's formative research study to better understand maternal dietary practices and behavioral influences in the four target regions – addressing a critical gap in the evidence base. Based on the in-depth analysis, the project developed a customized maternal SBCC strategy, as a supplement to ENGINE's overall SBCC road map. The team also completed a draft research report and research brief on maternal diet and nutrition behavioral influences, which will support the development of ENGINE's SBCC maternal nutrition messages and materials. Findings will be shared with USAID and FtF partners next quarter.

Baseline survey and operations research (OR)

ENGINE completed the data analysis from its baseline impact evaluation and drafted the final report in November, which will be finalized and disseminated next quarter. The acute malnutrition studies continue to be implemented smoothly in Jimma zone. Preparations and staffing for the birth cohort and agriculture nutrition panel in Jimma are rapidly progressing with involvement from ENGINE-

supported PhD students. All seven students enrolled in the newly formed Human Nutrition Department PhD program at Jimma University. Five PhD students participated in the training of trainers (TOT) of the project's birth cohort study and two will attend the TOT of the Agriculture-nutrition panel survey panel in January. The students will collect data for the two cohort studies when they are launched in quarter two.

Challenges and constraints

ENGINE encountered some challenges in Year III and rapidly developed concrete plans to overcome them during this reporting period from October 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013.

Delays in regional NNP roll-out

There have been persistent delays in the establishment of the nutrition coordination body and technical committee at regional levels. To address this challenge, the NNCB has asked UNICEF and USAID (through ENGINE) to provide technical and advocacy support for the regional multi-sector coordination and NNP roll-out at regional, zonal and *woreda* levels. ENGINE is meeting with UNICEF to develop a plan of action and standardize coordinated support for the regions.

Valid International (VI) tax issue

VI is registered as a for-profit organization in Ethiopia and is thus liable to pay the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) income tax and value added tax (VAT) for ENGINE project costs, which are not allowable under USAID rules and regulations. To avoid financial risk and liability, SC terminated the VI international sub-agreement as of December 31. To ensure the smooth transition of OR activities to SC, ENGINE transferred the Jimma University OR sub-agreement and key personnel to SC and is under negotiations with VI to continue international TA.

Reporting period

This is the ENGINE project's **Year III Quarter Report** covering the reporting period from **October 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013.**

Publication/reports

Did your organization support the production of publications, reports, guidelines or assessments during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable ☐

Yes ☒ If yes, please list below:

Title	Author	Date
Research brief on preliminary findings for maternal nutrition practices for FtF bi-weekly highlight	The Manoff Group with ENGINE advisors	October 2013
Maternal diet and nutrition behavioral influences at household and community levels: A report on formative research findings and recommendations for SBCC programming in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regions (Draft)	The Manoff Group with ENGINE advisors	November 2013
ENGINE baseline impact survey report (Draft)	VI with feedback from ENGINE	December 2013
SBCC strategy supplement: maternal nutrition social and behavior change communication strategy (Draft)	The Manoff Group with ENGINE advisors	December 2013

Technical assistance (TA)

Did your organization utilize short-term TA during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable ☐

Yes ☒ Please list below:

If yes, please attach an electronic copy of the TA report as part of your submission (Annex I).

TA Consultants

Name	Arrival	Departure	Organization	Type of TA provided
Lydia Clemmons	30 Sept 2013	11 Oct 2013	The Manoff Group	Support transition of the SBCC portfolio from JHU-CCP to SC and The Manoff Group.
Tina Galante	5 Nov 2013	14 Nov 2013	Tufts University	Work with researchers at Jimma and Hawassa universities on secondary data analyses.
Meghan Loraditch	5 Nov 2013	13 Dec 2013	Tufts University	Coordinate the birth cohort study and agriculture-nutrition panel.
Dr. Shibani Ghosh	6 Nov 2013	17 Nov 2013	Tufts University	Establish structures and tools for smooth implementation of the birth cohort study
Berhane Gebru	15 Nov 2013	22 Nov 2013	Tufts University	Conduct training on electric tablets for data collection.

Travel and visits

Did your organization support international travel during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable ☐
Yes ☒

All international travel to conferences, workshops, trainings, HQ or meetings

Name	Destination	Departure from Ethiopia	Arrival in Ethiopia	Host Organization	Purpose of the travel
Belaynesh Yifru, SC-ENGINE Endris Mekonnen, Jphiego-ENGINE	South Africa	3 Dec 2013	8 Dec 2013	North West University - Center of Excellence	Exchange visit to learn from the university about the process of establishing a Center of Excellence and identifying areas of collaboration (Annex I).

Field monitoring and supervision visits

Have any program **monitoring visits/supervisions** been made during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable ☐

Yes ☒ Please list below:

Description of Monitoring Team	Start Date	End Date	Sites Visited	Written recommendations provided
Health and Nutrition	01 Oct 2013	01 Oct 2013	Oromia region Woliso *woreda*	Observed Community Conversation (CC) sessions on nutrition and recommended enhanced CC group format based on findings (see IR 3.1).
FtF Joint Monitoring Team	20 Nov 2013	22 Nov 2013	Amhara region Dera *woreda*,	Identified potential areas for integrating and coordinating FtF nutrition activities and improving quality of the nutrition activities.
Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation	13 Nov 2013	17 Nov 2013	Tigray region Ofla woreda,	Piloted gender supervision checklists to mainstream gender into project activities.
Livelihood and Economic Strengthening	18 Nov 2013	29 Nov 2013	Oromia and Amhara regions Ambo, Andassa and Kombolcha Poultry Multiplication Centers Ambo *woreda* Toke Kutaye *woreda* Womberima *woreda* South Achefer *woreda* Bahir Dar town Zuria *woreda*	Identified producers for improved chicken supply strategy. Recommended that the project identify FTCs that can produce forage and link with beneficiaries who received livestock support for backyard forage plantation.
Monitoring and Evaluation	13 Nov 2013	27 Nov 2013	Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regions	Assessed data quality and provided results and recommendations to regional project staff, health facilities, FTCs and school teams.

Accomplishments and successes during the reporting period

Program management

Staff recruitment

During this reporting period, SC hired highly qualified material development, media development and graphic design experts to facilitate the rapid implementation of SBCC activities that SC has taken over from JHU-CCP. ENGINE also recruited a senior nutrition and HIV Quality Improvement (QI) advisor and submitted all the required documentation for final USAID approval. With the successful recruitment of this candidate, ENGINE will have succeeded in filling all key personnel positions. In addition, ENGINE creatively identified a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) advisor from the SC rich pool of in-country technical resources to support WASH mapping, rapid assessments and strengthening of WASH integration into ongoing nutrition activities.

Sub-grantee management

ENGINE continued its regular bi-weekly staff meetings to discuss progress toward completing planned activities as outlined in the sub-grantee Year III work plans and met individually with sub-primes to quickly resolve any outstanding issues to achieve optimal project performance. For example, ENGINE conducted a high level meeting with Tufts University to bring the team back on track to start-up the longitudinal OR studies on schedule and complete key deliverables according to the approved work plan. Additionally, SC and VI, in consultation with USAID and the Ethiopian government tax authorities, made every effort to resolve the complex VAT and corporate VI tax issues, but to no avail. As a result, SC terminated the VI International sub-agreement as of Dec 31, 2013 to avoid high financial risk and legal liability for the project. VI was given 60 days to close-out and submit their final deliverables. To expedite the seamless transition of OR activities to SC, ENGINE promptly transferred the Jimma University sub-agreement and research staff to SC and is currently negotiating with VI to continue international TA for the OR studies.

Technical assistance (TA)

In quarter one, ENGINE received TA from The Manoff Group in moving forward the transfer of SBCC activities from JHU/CCP to SC and Manoff as well as support from Tufts University in facilitating cohort studies and secondary analyses (Annex I).

Start-up activities

ENGINE, in consultation with the regional teams, GRAD and GOAL, proposed 17 non-AGP *woredas* to USAID and the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) that were accepted. During this quarter, Amhara and Oromia regional health bureaus accepted the proposal and lists of *woredas*, while the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region (SNNPR) is still pending approval. ENGINE will scale-up to selected non-AGP *woredas* in Amhara and Oromia in the second quarter. SC also submitted a concept note to USAID to intensify ENGINE activities into the existing and new AGP *woredas* and scale-up to other FtF zone of influence *woredas*.

Partnership and multi-sector coordination

ENGINE, as the chair of FtF nutrition TWG, facilitated the TWG quarterly meeting on Nov 29, 2013. The agenda items included feedback on the joint FtF partners field visit to Amhara region; technical support need for regions regarding FtF coordination; and orientation on 'nutrition 101' for

regional value chain FtF partners (Annex I). During this quarter, the TWG expanded its membership to MASHAV and IFHP.

ENGINE in collaboration with the nutrition team of USAID and other FtF partners organized a joint field visit to Amhara region to monitor the progress of nutrition activities of FtF projects (GRAD, AMde, MASHAV and ENGINE) and assess regional coordination of the projects. The team witnessed encouraging progress of each project's nutrition work as well as major gaps in the nutrition knowledge and skills of some regional partners and lack of coordination at the regional and community levels. The team presented the main findings and recommendations to USAID along with ENGINE's baseline survey and formative research findings for Amhara (Annex I).

ENGINE and Food and Assistance Technical Assistance III (FANTA-3) projects met with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) to move forward the implementation of the nutrition advocacy plan which was prepared last year. The FMoH gave the go-ahead to implement the plan. ENGINE's SBCC manager is working closely with FANTA-3 to translate the plan into action.

Peace Corps: ENGINE provided an overview of ENGINE's multi-sector nutrition activities and discussed opportunities for collaboration at the November mid-term conference for health volunteers. As an outcome of the session, ENGINE is exploring possibilities for health, education and agriculture volunteers to assist ENGINE in conducting an observational WASH assessment in overlapping *kebeles* to guide WASH integration into FtF programming.

UNICEF: NNCB requested UNICEF and USAID through ENGINE to support the multi-sectoral coordination of the NNP and its regional roll out and coordination at regional, zonal, and *woreda* levels. ENGINE is working with UNICEF to prepare a plan on how to coordinate and standardize support.

IR 1: Capacity for and institutionalization of nutrition programs and policies

Planned activities

- Support nutrition multi-sector coordination mechanisms
- Develop nutrition advocacy strategy with FMoH and other partners
- Address gaps in existing nutrition-related polices and guidelines
- Implement quality improvement process to strengthen nutrition education
- Conduct technical update courses on nutrition including WASH and gender
- Develop competency-based tools for nutrition teaching and assessment
- Continue preparations for establishing nutrition academic center of excellence (ACoE)
- Conduct nutrition training for health and agriculture program managers

IR 1.1: Strengthened policy environment

Strategy 1.1.1: Strengthen existing nutrition multi-sector coordination

Support nutrition multi-sector coordination mechanisms

National multi-sector coordination

ENGINE facilitated and participated in three monthly NNTC meetings to identify priority activities for inclusion in the annual work plans of the NNCB and NNTC. ENGINE also supported the preparation of the NNTC bi-annual progress report before it was submitted to the NNCB for approval. Furthermore, ENGINE helped to organize and facilitate the third NNCB meeting in December 2013, which was attended by NNP sector state ministries, Chamber of Commerce, USAID, UNICEF and the Department for International Development (DFID). NNTC presented the progress and challenges of NNP regional dissemination and provided an overview of the NNCB work plan. As an outcome this high-level meeting, NNCB reached consensus on the following action points: FMoH will write a letter to all regional presidents to support regional NNP launches and establishment of Regional Nutrition Coordinating Bodies (RNCBs) and Regional Nutrition Technical Committees (RNTCs); NNTC will develop the TOR and identify priority countries for the NNCB multi-sector coordination experience sharing visit; ENGINE and UNICEF will provide support (technical, advisory and financial) for the FMoH nutrition team and regional bureaus to facilitate NNP roll-out, establish RNTCs and RNCBs, and expedite effective implementation of NNP multi-sector coordination in all regions.

Regional multi-sector coordination

The Amhara region launched the NNP in December 2013 with technical and financial support from ENGINE. The regional team shared its practical experience implementing multi-sector nutrition interventions with health, agriculture and education stakeholders. Additionally, ENGINE provided technical and financial support for Oromia region in the preparation of the NNP regional dissemination workshop (January 2014) and establishment of the RNCB and RNTC. NNP regional dissemination in SNNPR and Tigray has been delayed due to overlapping government priorities.

Develop nutrition advocacy strategy

FMoH, in collaboration with nutrition partners, has been working on the national advocacy plan since the launch of the NNP, early last year. In November 2013, ENGINE and FANTA-3 took the initiative to hold the first PROFILES consultative meeting with other organizations to discuss the next steps for the implementation of the nutrition advocacy plan. Members of the advocacy and communication steering committee informed higher officials (NNCB) about the national nutrition advocacy plan and agreed to provide their support to bring the advocacy plan to fruition. Following this, FANTA shared a draft creative brief and audience segmentation plan to support the material development process. Parliamentarians and regional cabinet members were selected as the primary audience and the group discussed the draft creative brief and material development plan for the selected audience. The FMoH nutrition team agreed to take the lead to develop the initial content, which will later be reviewed and revised by ENGINE and FANTA-3 for technical accuracy. The communication group agreed that the content should consist of pertinent and statistical information on nutrition, including data on the cost of hunger, to create awareness on the priority national nutrition problems and how they affect development.

Strategy 1.1.2 Support development and revision of nutrition policies, guidelines and standards

Address gaps in existing nutrition-related policies and guidelines

Blended integrated nutrition module for health workers

This quarter ENGINE continued to provide technical support to the FMoH in designing and developing a comprehensive, 'blended integrated nutrition module for health workers.' Five thematic areas have been identified: micronutrient supplementation; Maternal, Adolescent, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MAIYCN); management of acute malnutrition; nutrition and communicable and non-communicable-related diseases; and nutrition program management.

The ENGINE team participated in a two-week writing workshop in December 2013 to assist the FMoH in developing draft sessions for each thematic area. Working with UNICEF and FMoH, ENGINE supported the overall coordination of the revisions, and ENGINE was a technical lead on MAIYCN, nutrition multi-sector coordination and food-based approaches. The next step will be collecting input from sub-group members, holding a joint meeting to discuss the feedback and then incorporating comments into the final blended learning module.

National micronutrient guideline revision

ENGINE, with FMoH and partners, was actively involved in the revision of the 'National Micronutrient Intervention guidelines' – initially developed more than a decade ago. The nine sub-groups prepared a draft document on nine thematic areas: iron-folate, zinc, iodine, vitamin A, food fortification, dietary diversification, public health approaches to prevention and control of micronutrient deficiencies, program communication, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The next steps will be to conduct a consultative workshop aimed at finalizing the document, incorporate feedback and input from the consultation and then submit the final revised guidelines for approval.

National nutrition guidelines

ENGINE, in close partnership with FMoH, led the revision and development of the following national nutrition guidelines: MAIYCN, management of acute malnutrition and multi-sector nutrition implementation. The final guidelines will be submitted to FMoH next quarter.

Food fortification plan of action

ENGINE facilitated the development of the food fortification plan of action. The working group has prepared a draft document, pending finalization and feedback from the food fortification steering committee, which will then be shared for review and approval by FMoH and other sectors.

Micronutrient forum

ENGINE is facilitating and supporting committee meetings for the Micronutrient Forum – a global conference to be held in Ethiopia, June 2014. As a committee member, ENGINE provided support in developing the agenda, creating sub-committee TORs and reviewing abstracts.

Central nutrition database and national nutrition TWG

FMoH has taken the lead in establishing a central nutrition database. ENGINE is a member of the working group and has contributed to the preparation of the TOR for the sub-group and implementation process and has identified key indicators to be included in the database. FMoH has also revitalized the National Nutrition TWG meeting with significant contributions from ENGINE in revising the TOR.

IR 1.2: Strengthened pre-service and in-service nutrition training for health care agents

Strategy 1.2.1: Pre-service education (PSE) for health care providers and agriculture agents strengthened

Implement quality improvement process, Standards-Based Management and Recognition (SBM-R)[1] to strengthen nutrition education

This quarter all ENGINE-supported institutions conducted second internal monitoring assessments and shared their progress on the SBM-R review meeting. A total of 36 participants (9 females) composed of deans/vice-deans, SBM-R focal persons and instructors attended the review meeting. Most institutions showed progress from previous performance, particularly in the area of nutrition content delivery.

The following are some of the SBM-R achievements documented over the reporting period:

- Some Agriculture Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) institutions started provision of nutrition information by every instructor for five minutes per class
- Huge resources, including a new building for a nutrition skills lab, were mobilized to strengthening nutrition skills teaching and assessment using SBM-R tool
- Health science institutions started nutrition skills teaching and assessment, which was not previously in place
- Some institutions established nutrition clubs where up-to-date nutrition information will be shared among students
- Qualification exam pass rate (at the end of academic program) increased at ATVET institutions due to overall improvement in quality of education

As a way forward, every institution revised its action plan focusing on persistent gaps for the betterment of nutrition education considering internal and external resources, including ENGINE support. ENGINE PSE also conducted eight[2] rounds of supportive supervisions to project supported institutions and provided on-site technical assistance on implementation of nutrition PSE strengthening activities. Classroom teaching and assessment, skills lab corners for nutrition, SBM-R team building and institutional management were the main areas covered by supportive supervision. As a result, documentation of ENGINE related activities, arrangement and utilization of nutrition skills lab corners and SBM-R team performance has improved.

Facilitate nutrition technical update training

Photo 1: Shire ATVET instructors practice hand washing

Over the reporting period, ENGINE provided five nutrition technical update training sessions, including WASH, for142 (13 females) agriculture instructors, enabling them to deliver nutrition-sensitive content integrated into their curriculum. The training also included instructors practicing proper hand washing techniques, following theoretical session on WASH. As a result of the training sessions, all plant and animal science instructors' background on nutrition improved as shown from average pre (60 percent) and post (75 percent) test performance.

[1] SBM-R is a methodology developed by Jhpiego to improve the performance and quality of nutrition education.
[2] Alage, Bure, and Wolaita Sodo ATVET colleges; Hawassa, Bahir Dar and Araya Kahsu Health Science colleges; and Hawassa & Gondar universities.

Currently, some ENGINE-supported ATVET institutions started delivering nutrition-sensitive content integrated courses following the training.

Develop competency-based tools for nutrition teaching and assessment

ENGINE conducted two workshops to develop competency-based nutrition teaching and assessment tools for health science and agriculture TVET institutions. Teaching and assessment tools such as checklists and learning guides were developed towards strengthening skills teaching at project-supported health science institutions. In addition, focused nutrition teaching and learning materials were developed to support the delivery of integrated nutrition contents for health and agriculture cadres. Institutions started using these tools for teaching and assessing their students in classroom, skills labs and at practical sites.

Distribute nutrition teaching materials to institutions

ENGINE PSE initiated activities aimed at establishing new nutrition skills labs or creating nutrition corners in the existing skills labs at all project supported health science institutions. To strengthen this initiative and the overall teaching process, ENGINE distributed nutrition teaching materials including reference books, skills lab materials and audio-visual aids to all 12 project supported institutions. The unavailability of most skills lab materials on the local market presented a challenge in fully executing this activity, therefore shifting to international procurement provided a solution.

Continue process to establish academic center of excellence (ACoE) for nutrition

As part of the process to establish an ACoE for nutrition education, ENGINE continued working closely with Hawassa University on identification of skills lab materials to strengthen nutrition skills teaching and research. To this end, a draft activity plan for the coming period of the project, including a budget breakdown, was developed by the institution. In addition, a committee comprised of five members conducted a benchmarking visit to North-West University, South Africa, to share experience on the organizational structure, human resource development and management, basic facilities required and funding mechanisms. The visit was also instrumental in establishing links for future partnerships and strengthening South-to-South collaboration between the two institutions.

Conduct nutrition training for program managers

Over the reporting period, ENGINE delivered one round of a TOT course on "Nutrition Program Planning and Supervision" to 17 participants (5 females) from four project implementing regions including ENGINE regional coordinators. The training equips the participants with up-to-date nutrition information and basic training facilitation skills as evaluated by post-test and teach-back sessions. As a result, a pool of trainers has been created who will cascade the basic training on nutrition program planning and supervision at their respective regions, zones and *woredas*.

IR 2: Quality and delivery of nutrition and health care services improved

Planned activities:

- Develop a quality improvement (QI) model to improve quality of nutritional services
- Promote mentoring and supportive supervision for health service providers
- Provide health and nutrition training to program managers, health workers (HWs) and health extention workers (HEWs)
- Conduct food (nutrition) cooking demonstrations
- Improve tools for frontline health and agriculture workers
- Strengthen referral/tracking system
- Support target *woredas* in CHD implementation
- Implement community conversations

Strategy 2.1.1 Facilitate the integration of quality improvement process with GoE coordination entities

Develop QI model to improve the quality of nutrition services

This quarter ENGINE's technical advisors reviewed raw data collected by the hired QI firm to verify and rectify questionable findings and expedite finalization of the report to reflect the project's mandate to improve the quality of nutrition services at the community, health post and health facility levels (see challenges section).

Promote coaching/mentoring across members of health service delivery

ENGINE regional teams in SNNP and Tigray trained 116 HWs (eight female) on coaching and mentorship skills at quarterly *woreda* review meetings. The trainees developed action plans on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) counseling services, mentoring for HEWs, conducting cooking demonstrations, documentation and reporting. At the facility level, ENGINE zonal coordinators and HW trainers mentored 115 HWs (77 female) and 129 HEWs (two male) to improve MIYCN services. The following table summarizes major strengths, gaps and actions taken during mentorship.

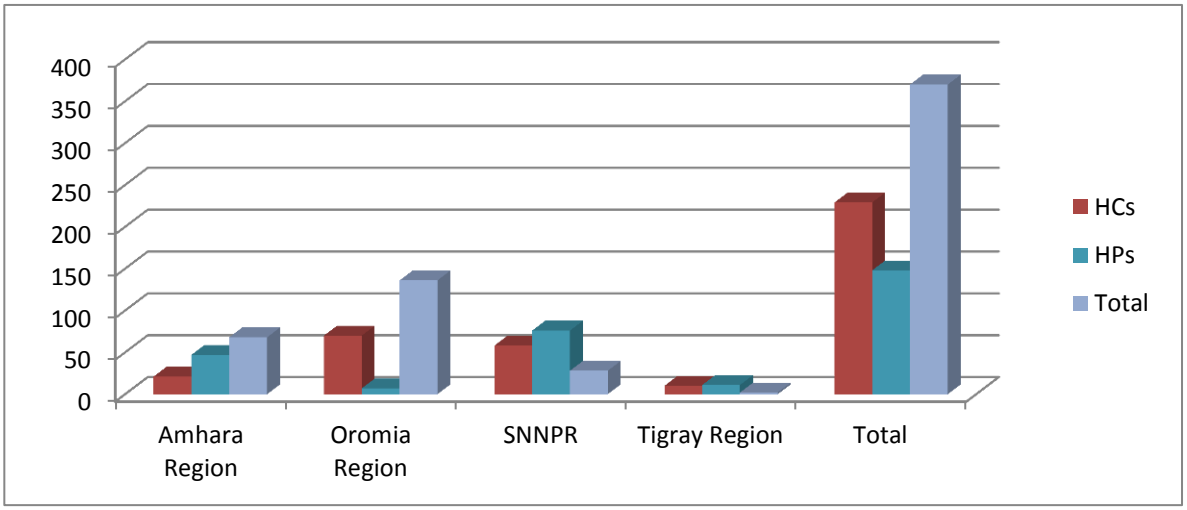
Major strengths	Major gaps	Actions taken
Improvement in MIYCN service delivery; Improvement in MIYCN service planning, recording, reporting, monitoring; and MIYCN services delivered by ENGINE-trained HWs.	Lack of adherence to steps of MIYCN services; Problem in message selection during counseling; and Lack of giving sufficient time during counseling. Absence of zinc	Mentees were provided with the necessary nutritional counseling skills and practices; Effective ways of MIYCN data recording, reporting and monitoring were addressed; Capacity building of service providers through on site mentoring and training was identified as key and effective way of improving MIYCN service delivery; and Food cooking demonstrations planned to complement counseling services.

As part of mentorship process, ENGINE zonal teams conducted household (HH) visits to assess the MIYCN knowledge and practices of caretakers. Under the visited health post (HP) catchment area, HHs with pregnant or lactating mothers, or children under 5 years were prioritized for the interviews. Accordingly, East Oromia and Tigray Regional Teams visited 146 HHs using a standard checklist (see annex interview sheet, East Oromia). In East Oromia, 46 percent (45/98) of the HHs were aware and practicing recommended MIYCN practices, particularly giving colostrum to newborns and excusive breast-feeding. Similarly, 43 percent (42/98) of the HHs had knowledge of the importance of consuming iodized salt. 38 percent (38/98) and 35 percent (20/98) had knowledge of time of hand washing and practiced hand washing respectively.

Improve supportive supervision

In the first quarter of Year III, ENGINE zonal coordinators planned to visit 249 HFs[3] in collaboration with *woreda* and zonal health offices. Accordingly, the team reached 370 health facilities (HFs)[4] for the first time during the quarter (229 HCs and 148 HPs). The supervision at facility level aimed to improve delivery of nutrition and health services provided by HWs and HEWs and to address challenges faced by frontline health workers. The team used supportive supervision checklists to assess and provide on-site feedback and developed action plans based on the findings. During the joint supervision, the team visited 380 pregnant and lactating mothers to better understand nutrition and health service status. Graph 2.1 below shows the number of health centers (HCs) and HPs visited during the quarter.

Graph 2.1: Health facility joint supportive supervisions by regions



The visiting team observed improvements in planning and integration of MIYCN services into other MNCH services, improved use of job aids during counseling, improved provision and documentation of micronutrients for pregnant mothers, initiation of nutrition cooking demonstrations at facility level and improved recording, posting and reporting of MIYCN services.

The challenges faced by frontline HWs include: micronutrient supply shortage, specifically shortage of zinc; high turnover of trained HWs and poor recording. The Health Management Information

[3] Total HFs is the sum of HCs and HPs in four target regions (416HCs and 2061 HPs in four regions)
[4] New refers to the number of facilities reached for the first time during the reporting year.

System (HIMS) is not capturing many of the nutrition indicators; therefore accessing routine nutrition data at the *woreda* level is difficult. At the community level, constructed latrines lacked privacy structures and water for hand washing.

Priority actions for the next quarter will be to address micronutrient supply shortages through discussion with regional bureaus and *woreda* health offices. ENGINE regional team will continue providing MIYCN on job training and mentoring for HWs and HEWs to cope with the staff turnover. To improve documentation and reporting of all nutrition indicators, ENGINE regional team will discuss with regional bureaus on the integration of nutrition indicators into the routine facility and *woreda* reporting system. WASH has been included in the regional work plans and will focus on addressing the gaps in community level WASH practices.

Strategy 2.1.2: Build the capacity of health facility staff and frontline workers to provide high quality services

Provide child health and nutrition training for frontline health and agriculture workers

In quarter I, ENGINE trained a total of 546 staff (health and agriculture) and 18,820 community members in health and nutrition, which covered MIYCN basic concepts and on-the-job nutrition program planning and monitoring, Nutrition Assessment, Counseling and Support (NACS) and nutrition cooking demonstrations for community members. Most of the participants at the community level were reached through food cooking demonstrations. Table 2.1 summarizes all health and nutrition training provided during the quarter.

Table 2.1: Total number of people trained in child health and nutrition by region

	Government staff members (A)			Community members (B)			Both(A+B)		
Region	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Amhara	30	16	46	1,186	5,308	6,494	1,216	5,324	6,540
Oromia	161	148	309	1,063	1,386	2,449	1,224	1,534	2,758
SNNPR	39	19	58	1,406	8,358	9,764	1,445	8,377	9,822
Tigray	81	7	88	-	113	113	81	120	201
National	8	37	45	-	-	-	8	37	45
	319	227	546	3,655	15,165	18,820	3,974	15,392	19,366

Provide training for health and agriculture program managers on nutrition program management

ENGINE provided TOT on nutrition program management, a planning and supervision course for 17 (5 female and 12 male) health and agriculture managers from Oromia, Tigray, Amhara, and SNNP Regions (See IR: 1.2). Following the TOT, the ENGINE regional team in Oromia trained 73 (10 female) participants on nutrition program planning and supervision, including cross-cutting sessions on WASH and gender, using ENGINE's integrated training package (reference manual, facilitator and participant guide). Amhara, SNNP and Tigray Regions will conduct the training next quarter.

Provide MIYCN gap-filing training for health workers

ENGINE Provided TOT on MIYCN for health workers from Tigray, Oromia, SNNPR, and Amhara Region. A total of 28 (3 female) participants were trained from the target regions. This training will build the capacity of the region by having a pool of trainers in nutrition. At regional level, ENGINE trained 294 (163 female) health workers in Amhara, Oromia and SNNP Regions.

Provide NACs training for HWs and case managers

In this quarter, Amhara Regional Team provided NACs for 18 health workers (9 female) from non-Food by Prescription (FBP) antiretroviral treatment (ART) health centers in ENGINE intervention *woredas*. The objective of the training was to orient health care providers using the algorithm for care and management of malnutrition for People Living with HIV (PLHIV) to improve the quality of nutrition care and counseling. At the end of the training, trainees developed an action plan to follow the implementation as the training standard.

IR 2.1 Health and nutrition service seeking behaviors increased

STRATEGY 2.1.3: Mobilize communities to seek health/nutrition services

Monitor and report MIYCN counseling for mothers by trained HWs

ENGINE is supporting MIYCN training, mentorship and coaching, HWs are focusing on preventive direct nutrition services. During this quarter, 54,014 pregnant and 23,317 lactating mothers were counseled on infant and maternal nutrition by trained health workers. Similarly, 47,652 pregnant women and 11,935 lactating mothers received iron-folate supplements at HCs. Graph 2.2 presents the nutrition services by regions for the quarter.

Table 2.2: Total number of mothers received direct nutrition services at HCs

Health centre nutrition indicators	Amhara Region	Oromia Region	SNNP Region	Tigray Region	Total
# of pregnant women counselled on infant and maternal nutrition	20,600	11,789	8,481	13,144	54,014
# of antenatal care (ANC) women supplemented with iron-folate	18,747	8,984	6,816	13,105	47,652
# of lactating women counselled on infant feeding and maternal nutrition	8,662	5,656	3,829	5,170	23,317
# of lactating women supplemented with iron–folate	3,871	2,064	1,707	4,293	11,935

Use pregnant women conference to educate mothers on key nutrition messages

In this quarter, ENGINE regional teams used 86 pregnant mothers' conference to promote key MIYCN behaviors. The main topics discussed during the conferences include nutrition during pregnancy, iron supplementation, initiation of breast feeding within an hour, exclusive breast feeding practices, importance of iodine, pregnancy danger signs and birth preparedness. Emphasis was given on key nutritional practices during pregnancy including one extra meal for pregnant and lactating mothers, iodized salt utilization and iron adherence. Table 2.3 presents the number conference and participants by regions.

Table 2.3: Total number of women conference used for nutrition education

Regions	No. of *woreda*	No. of conference	Male partners	Pregnant women	Total
Amhara	10	73	416	2338	2754
Oromia	3	3	17	139	156
SNNP	3	10	0	358	358
Total	16	86	433	2835	3268

In this quarter, ENGINE regional team distributed counseling cards and briefcases to 224 HCs centres and 62 HPs respectively in five *woredas* in Amhara and three *woredas* of Oromia Regions.

Provide mentorship to HEWs for the implementation of direct nutrition services at facility and community levels

ENGINE Zonal coordinators in collaboration with trained HWs provided mentorship to HFs for the implementation of direct nutrition service at facility and community levels. HEWs counseled 41,767 mothers on excusive breast feeding and complimentary feeding during postnatal visits and 31,428 mothers received iron-folate supplements. HEWs also treated 9,350 children with diarrhea with zinc and oral rehydration salts. Table 2.5 presents the number of mothers and children reached through routine HP nutrition services.

Table 2.5: Total number of people children received direct nutrition services at HPs

Health post nutrition Indicators	Amhara Region	Oromia Region	SNNP Region	Tigray Region	Total
# of children with diarrhoea provided with zinc capsule	4,648	1,609	1,477	1,616	9,350
# of women provide with iron-folate	13,119	3,999	7,689	6,621	31,428
# of postnatal women counselled on exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) and combined feeding (CF)	23,270	5,208	5,297	7,992	41,767

Conduct food (nutrition) cooking demonstrations

ENGINE is using food-cooking demonstrations (FCD) at community level to address low dietary diversity for mothers and children. In this quarter, ENGINE supported 196 FCD events at FTCs, schools and HPs. Demonstration were given of stepwise porridge preparation for children 6-11 months and 12-23 months together with hand washing practices. A total of 18, 820 individuals, out of which 15,165 were pregnant and lactating mothers attended the demonstration events.

ENGINE used 185 cooking demonstration events as a platform to promote improved hygiene and model best practices in the areas of hand washing and use of latrines. ENGINE also used all food cooking demonstration events to promote the importance of using iodized salt.

Table 2.6: Total number of people participated in nutrition cooking demonstrations by region

Regions	No. of events	Male	Female	Total	Remark
Amhara	50	1,186	5,308	6,494	The cooking demonstrations were conducted at FTCs, schools and HFs
Oromia	20	1,063	1,386	2,449	
SNNP	122	1,406	8,358	9,764	
Tigray	4	-	113	113	
Total	196	3,655	15,165	18,820	

Photos 2 & 3: Hand washing: WASH Integration in to cooking demonstration and pregnant women conference (Amhara)

Improve tools used by frontline health and agriculture workers to promote the harmonization of nutrition messaging

While the prevalence of cell phones remains relatively low in Ethiopia's general population, nearly 90 percent of HEWs have a cell phone[5] and anecdotal evidence indicates that the large majority of Agriculture Extension Workers (AEWs) do as well. This quarter, ENGINE explored options for establishing a cell phone service for HEWs and AEWs to access nutrition information and advice to support their work in households and communities. Online research and information gathering meetings with cell phone service providers has confirmed that ENGINE can offer regular SMS text messages and pre-recorded voice information through a new "mNutrition" service, which can be set up and run in-house. The mNutrition service has the potential of reaching thousands of frontline workers to help improve their performance in delivering nutrition and agriculture-nutrition extension services.

Next quarter, ENGINE will establish the mNutrition service. The project will procure and set-up equipment and system for the mNutrition service, including toll-free numbers for HEWs and AEWs to call or text to register for nutrition information and advice. The SBCC team will design the mNutrition service, including: messages (SMS and pre-recorded voice) for HEWs and AEWs; a menu tree for nutrition information options that HEWs and AEWs can select; a call-in/call-back and text-in/text back system to support registration and automatic response system; and an in-built monitoring system for routine analysis and reporting. The project will procure mNutrition

[5] mHealth in Ethiopia: *Strategies for a New Framework*. Vital Wave Consulting. 2011.

equipment and supplies, and train ENGINE staff to run and monitor mNutrition service. ENGINE will also fast-track the development of SBCC materials for HEWs and AEWs that complement the mNutrition service and facilitate their extension work with households and communities.

IR 2.2 Health and nutrition seeking behaviors increased

Strategy 2.1.4: Develop the SBCC strategy as it relates to health-seeking behaviors (discussed in IR3.1 in detail)

Strategy 2.1.5: Mobilize communities to seek health/nutrition services

JHU-CCP established 120 community conversation (CC) groups in 24 *kebeles* in eight *woredas* covering three regions (Oromia, Amhara and Tigray) with the participation of 3,570 community members. In Amhara, Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Development and Inter-Church AID Commission (EOC/DICAC) reached 1440 community members through 10 CC sessions. In Oromia and Tigray, 2130 members (Oromia -1680 and Tigray – 450) CC members attended the minimum required eight sessions. Following the launch of the CC in these communities, additional community members expressed interest to be a part of the CC groups. Some groups were observed to have more than the recommended limit for membership size (30) and were advised to split the groups into two groups to effectively engage CC participants.

Some NGO partners reported challenges in mobilizing and engaging men in CC sessions. To address this important issue, ENGINE with the support from The Manoff Group designed a new approach to conduct Enhanced Community Conversations (ECCs). The approach will segment participants into three separate peer groups: (1) pregnant or lactating women; (2) grandmothers of infants and young children/mothers and mothers-in-law of pregnant or lactating women; and (3) fathers of infants and young children/husbands of pregnant or lactating women. ECCs with husbands/fathers will be facilitated by trained AEWs and include meetings at FTCs as a major component to encourage male involvement. ECCs will tailor the content of the CC sessions to each of the three main peer groups, using more participatory methodology that focus on building skills and promoting pro-nutrition skills, gender roles, and family relationships.

With the completion of JHU-CCP's work under ENGINE, this quarter was dedicated to preparing the re-procurement of local NGO implementing partners. ENGINE developed a new Scope of Work (SOW) that incorporates a refined approach to working with communities through ECCs. In addition, ENGINE prepared a new Request for Proposal (RFP) for local NGOs and has short-listed applicants who responded to the RFP. ENGINE is currently finalizing the selection process.

In the second quarter, ENGINE will issue new contracts for local NGO implementing Partners. The team will expedite the development of SBCC materials (maternal nutrition) to support ECCs conducted through the local NGOs as well as revising and revamping existing manuals and job aids.

IR 2.3 Access to health and nutrition services increased

Strategy 2.1.6: Strengthening the referral system and access to essential supplies with maternal and child health services

Strengthen referral/tracking system of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) children between HCs & communities/HPs

Referral linkage, as one of the system strengthening part of nutrition services, needs to be strengthened to improve the quality of nutrition services. During this quarter, 276 children with SAM cases were referred to health center and hospitals. To address gaps, zonal coordinators held discussions with *woreda* health offices to strengthen bi-directional communication (referral and feedback) in the future.

In Amhara Region, Bichena HC organized a graduation ceremony for 18 children (8 female) born free from HIV under the follow up of Bichena HC's Mothers Support Group (MSG). The graduation requirement include, EBF until six months, prophylaxis for children given at birth from PLWHI, treatment or prophylaxis for the mother, complementary feeding after 6 months until 12 months, and transfer to weaning within one month after 12 month of complimentary feeding. In this graduation ceremony, a total of 37 (29 female and 8 male) participants attended the event. The ceremony was arranged to give recognition for those who are involved in the process (mothers, mother support groups and health workers).

Support *woreda* Child Health Days (CHD) implementation

In this quarter ENGINE reached 938,189 and 645,847 children with vitamin A and de-worming in 52 target *woredas* out of the planned 83 *woredas*. In Oromia and SNNP[6] Regions, ENGINE supported all *woredas* for vitamin A supplementation and de-worming. In Amhara and Tigray Regions, ENGINE supported nutrition screening, except for one *woreda* in North Shoa of Amhara Region, which conducted vitamin A and de-worming.

ENGINE provided support in transporting nutrition commodities to sites, supporting CHD monitoring visits and post CHD quality checks. ENGINE also facilitated referral of SAM cases to health centers and hospitals.

Table 2.7: Total number of children supplemented with vitamin A and de-wormed through CHD

Regions	No. of *woredas* (new)	No. of *woredas* (repeat)	# Under-5 children supplemented with Vitamin A	# of De-wormed children (2-5 years)	Remark
Amhara	1	0	11,792	9,707	others screening only
Oromia	34	0	615,365	433,098	
SNNP	17	0	311,032	203,042	two *woredas* in progress
Tigray	0	0	0	0	screening only
Total	52	0	938,189	645,847	

[6] The report for two *woredas* is not included in this reporting period.

IR 3: Prevention of undernutrition through community-based practices improved

Planned activities:

- Analyze formative research data on maternal nutrition practices and barriers
- Broadcast 1000 Days radio magazine show
- Identify additional beneficiaries for LES support and support existing households
- Establish and strengthen savings groups for most vulnerable households
- Support schools and FTCs in agronomic and cooking demonstrations
- Support the establishment of improved chicken multiplication interventions
- Monitor environmental compliance
-

IR 3.1 MIYCN knowledge and practices improved

Strategy 3.1.1: Develop SBCC strategy through powerful formative research

Analyze formative research to develop SBCC strategy

This quarter was dedicated to the analysis of the dataset from ENGINE's formative research in all four regions to identify dietary practices and behavioral influences, relevant to maternal, adolescent, infant, and young child nutrition. Nearly three thousand pages of transcripts from 48 focus group discussions (FGDs) and 192 in-depth interviews were entered into qualitative data analysis software programs (NVivo and Axis.ti), coded and analyzed.

Due to the large number of topics and participants, the findings and recommendations from the data analysis will be written and packaged as a series of long reports and short briefs. A draft research report on Maternal Diet and Nutrition Behavioral Influences, as well as a research brief on the same topic for the FtF newsletter, were submitted this quarter. The findings from this report will support the development of ENGINE's SBCC messages and materials on maternal nutrition.

The findings and recommendations from the analysis of data relevant to the maternal diet supported the development of a draft Maternal Nutrition Social and Behavior Change Communication Strategy. This strategy document, which serves as a Supplement to ENGINE's overall SBCC strategy, was submitted this Quarter.

During The Manoff Group's TA visit (Annex I), the SBCC Senior Advisor conducted a mini-inventory of Cultural Resources that may support ENGINE's SBCC strategy. A three-minute draft video highlighting the potential resources was submitted. The video, which can be used as a training resource to help ENGINE's staff and NGO implementing partners conduct cultural resources inventories, will be finalized with ENGINE's branding.

Next quarter The Manoff Group will finalize the draft report on Maternal Diet and Nutrition Behavioral Influences and disseminate the Executive Summary to stakeholders. Other formative research products will be finalized on the following topics: Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)

practices; household agriculture-nutrition practices; and research briefs on audiences (Pregnant Women, Mothers of Children under Two, Husbands and Fathers, Grandmothers, Adolescents). ENGINE will disseminate key formative research findings to project staff and stakeholders. Manoff will also update ENGINE's overall SBCC strategy with the three core Strategy Supplements: Maternal Nutrition, IYCF and Agriculture-Nutrition.

Strategy 3.1.2: Promote optimal nutrition practices through dynamic communication channels

Broadcast 1,000 Days radio magazine show

JHU·CCP produced and aired the remaining episodes of the 1,000 Days radio magazine show per the design document. Accordingly, each region produced and aired the additional new episodes planned for the quarter (SNNPR – 5, Oromia – 5, Tigray – 7 and Amhara 10). At the end of the reporting period, JHU·CCP finished producing and airing all the planned 27 episodes of the "Thousand Days" which were tailored to the local contexts of the four regions.

Evidence from a recent ENGINE gender analysis includes the finding that only 13.5 percent of women and 23 percent of men have frequent access to nutrition information through radio and television. This finding has led to the decision to redesign the strategic approach for radio. The program will target husbands and fathers as a primary audience.

This quarter, ENGINE held a series of information gathering discussions with Farm Radio International (FRI), which has conducted agriculture and agriculture-nutrition radio broadcasts in Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNP regions. A review of FRI's research reports on listenership and audience preferences in these regions has led to the decision that developing a multi-format program that combines nutrition and agriculture-nutrition news, entertainment, and participatory formats will be more effective than a radio serial drama.

This Quarter, ENGINE developed a RFP to engage the services of a creative agency to support the rapid development of SBCC job aids for frontline workers; materials to facilitate dialogue and skills-building during the ECCs; and take-home materials for pregnant women and their husbands, as well as for the parents of infants and young children. Final selection of the winning agency is anticipated in the second quarter, enabling ENGINE to move ahead with the rapid development of maternal nutrition SBCC materials (first priority) as well as messages and materials promoting improved IYCF practices and household actions to enhance MIYCN through the agriculture sector.

JHU·CCP has completed the implementation of activities per the revised SOW in the modified sub-agreement. The next quarter will be focused on financial and programmatic close-out. SC will initiate the procurement process for a local agency to support the production and broadcasting of ENGINE's new format for radio programming. ENGINE will select and procure the winning creative agency. The SBCC team will work with the winning agency to fast-track the development of maternal nutrition messages and materials for target audiences, beginning with creative concept testing. Additional SBCC job aids for HEWs and AEWs will also be fast-tracked, complementing the mNutrition service to facilitate the work of these frontline workers.

IR 3.2: Increased access to food and economic strengthening opportunities through programming and cross-sector linkage

Strategy 3.1.3: Apply economic strengthening activities in target geographical areas to address specific household vulnerabilities

ENGINE analyzed and consolidated data gathered from an LES mapping exercise in all 83 target AGP *woredas* and drafted the final report, which will be finalized by the end of January.

Select the most vulnerable households for LES support in Year III

ENGINE, in partnership with *kebele* development committees, selected 2698 of the most vulnerable households (MVHHs) for LES support in the four main regions. The project only achieved 78 percent of this quarter's target because many *kebele* development committees were occupied with other government-assigned tasks and thus not available for this critical, participatory selection process (see challenges section). ENGINE discussed this challenge with relevant government partners and developed a joint plan to catch-up on LES planned activities next quarter. Among the Year III newly selected MVHHS, a total of 2104 households were oriented on project-related support and their roles and responsibilities.

Match economic opportunities with household interest and capabilities

ENGINE provided TA in the areas of livestock management, vegetable and fruit production to Year I and Year II project beneficiaries. Accordingly a total of 1463 MVHHs were provided with TA in the regions of Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP, representing 100 percent of the quarter's target.

Strengthen MVHHs groups organized in Year I and Year II and initiate savings

During the reporting period, ENGINE strengthened MVHH groups by providing locally-made safe boxes (with three padlocks), register books, TA and also facilitated the selection of management committees to promote savings and enable access to financial services. Moreover, the LES team drafted "Savings Group Formation" guidelines to facilitate linkages to formal micro financial service providers. A total of 85 saving groups were strengthened in collaboration with the formal micro finance institutes and cooperative promotion office, which is 73 percent of the quarter I target.

Establish MVHHs savings groups in Year I, Year II and Year III

In the first quarter, ENGINE established 28 saving groups in Amhara, Oromia and SNNP Regions, which was 17 percent of the quarterly target (out of 167); ten of which are formally linked to microfinance institutions (MFIs) or savings and credit associations. Unfortunately, the process of establishing savings groups among Year III selected households was quite low, due to a delay in selecting MVHHs and thus preventing the team from reaching this quarter's target. To date, ENGINE has formed 198 savings groups out of the total three-year target of 414. The LES team will continue to place emphasis on this activity in the upcoming quarter to ensure success.

Initiate regular group meetings to promote optimal vegetable and livestock productivity, gender, MIYCN and WASH behaviors

In order to promote vegetable and livestock productivity, gender, and optimal MIYCN and WASH practices, the saving groups conducted a series of group meetings. A total of 442 meetings (representing 37 percent of the quarterly target of 1198) were conducted in the regions of Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP. This target was not achieved because of the delay in the selection process for Year III MVHHs, as well as the Development Agents (DAs) being busy with tasks assigned by the government.

During the reporting period, the LES team trained 810 participants from Year I and Year II selected MVHHs in vegetable and fruit production, irrigation, and water management and livestock management (feed preparation, forage production and animal health). Particular emphasis was placed on introducing new technologies for horticulture and livestock management to MVHHs, as well as nutrition and gender as cross-cutting themes that focused on dietary diversification and the role of women in household decision-making.

Strategy 3.1.4: Facilitate community-based learning on agriculture techniques for increased production of diverse foods

In quarter I, ENGINE collected data from schools and FTCs supported in Year I & II to assess the schools and FTCs that will be graduating from utilizing the support of planting materials and hand tools, while still benefiting from TA. Based on the findings of the assessment, the LES team will determine which schools and FTCs will graduate in quarter II. If the income earned from the sales of vegetables produced sustains the production and demonstration, the FTC and school will be considered for graduation.

Support schools in gardening, agronomic and cooking demonstrations

During the reporting period, ENGINE provided a variety of vegetable seeds (cabbage, carrots, Swiss chard, Irish potato, orange flesh sweet potato and pumpkin) and fruit seedlings (mango, avocado, papaya and apple) to 42 schools in the regions of Tigray, Amhara and Oromia (Table 3.1) which is 95 percent of the quarter target. Besides the material support, the ENGINE team at the head office, ENGINE regional team and *woreda* agriculture office experts provided on-site TA to 93 schools. The technical support focused on vegetable production and fruit seedling plantation.

Table 3.1: Number of schools supported by regions

Region	Number of schools supported
Tigray	16
Amhara	24
Oromia	2
Total	42

ENGINE also organized agronomic practice and cooking demonstration events in schools in Oromia and SNNP Regions to promote dietary diversification and MIYCN to the wider communities. As shown in Tables 3.2 & 3.3 below, a total of 1899 individuals attended agronomic practice sessions at 13 events and 1372 individuals attended cooking demonstrations at 11 events.

Table 3.2: Number of individuals participating in agronomic practice demonstration events in schools

Region	Number of individuals	Number of events
Oromia	1019	8
SNNP	880	5
Total	1899	13

Table 3.3: Number of individuals participating in cooking demonstration events in schools

Region	Number of individuals	Number of events
Oromia	875	5
SNNP	497	6
Total	1372	11

Support FTCs in agronomic and cooking demonstration

ENGINE supported a total of 17 FTCs with vegetable seeds (cabbage, carrots, Swiss chard, Irish potato, orange flesh sweet potato and pumpkin) and 3 FTCs with fruit seedlings (mango, avocado, papaya and apple) during the reporting period (Table 3.4). In addition to the planting material support, ENGINE team together with *woreda* agriculture office experts provided on-site TA to 47 FTCs. Technical support focused on vegetable production and fruit seedling plantation.

Table 3.4: Number of FTCs supported by regions

Region	Number of FTCs supported
Tigray	11
Amhara	5
Oromia	1
SNNP	3
Total	20

ENGINE also organized agronomic practice and cooking demonstration events at FTCs in Amhara, Oromia and SNNP Regions. As indicated in Tables 3.5 & 3.6, a total of 2110 individuals attended 15 agronomic practice demonstration events (55 percent of the quarter target) and 3004 individuals attended 22 cooking demonstration events (92 percent of the quarter target). The demonstrations focused primarily on selecting and cultivating nutritious vegetables.

Table 3.5: Number of individuals participating in agronomic practice demonstration events in FTCs

Region	Number of individuals	Number of events
Amhara	1735	12
Oromia	360	2
SNNP	15	1
Total	2110	15

Table 3.6: Number of individuals participating in cooking demonstration events in FTCs

Region	Number of individuals	Number of events
Amhara	1735	12
Oromia	581	4
SNNP	688	6
Total	3004	22

Support the establishment of improved chicken multiplication interventions through private groups or associations already engaged in chicken production

In quarter one, ENGINE identified prospective private groups or associations engaged in chicken production. Chicken multiplication units, which will be equipped with incubators and parent stock of chicken to produce day-old chicken of farmers' preferences, were selected in Amhara and West Oromia regions. In addition, three chicken growers each in Amhara and West Oromia will receive day-old chickens from the multiplication unit and raise them for two months before handing them over to ENGINE to distribute to targeted households. To access the chicken and parent stock, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between ENGINE, the Ethiopia Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and Debre Zeit Agricultural Research Center (DZARC**)**. Similarly, a quadripartite MoU has been drafted to be signed by the following partners: ENGINE, the *woreda* Livestock Agency, a selected chicken multiplication unit and chicken growers.

Support MVHHs in homestead production

ENGINE provided 887 MVHHs (selected in Years I and II) with various vegetable seeds including cabbage, carrot, Swiss chard, Irish potato, sweet potato (orange and white flesh), pumpkin, green beans and kale in Amhara, Oromia and SNNP Regions, and 100 MVHHs selected in Year II in SNNP Region were provided with basic farm hand tools (Table 3.7). As observed during field visits, the households that were able to diversify their diets sold excess vegetable products after consumption. Some of the HHs reported that with the money obtained from the sale of excess vegetable products, they purchased additional animal source foods for the household, vegetable seeds for future production seasons, educational materials for children, household equipment, and livestock treatment expenses, as well as depositing savings in the bank.

Table 3.7: Number of MVHHs provided with vegetable seeds and fruit seedlings by regions

Region	Number of MVHHs supported
Amhara	702
Oromia	66
SNNP	119
Total	887

This quarter ENGINE drafted a *"Sustainable vegetable seed supply strategy"* which provides possible mechanisms to acquire vegetable seeds by MVHHs and other communities for sustainable production in ENGINE project areas. This guideline is out in the field for review for comment with the goal of finalizing in the next quarter. The LES team also drafted "Pre and Post-Harvest Handling and Storage of Fresh Vegetables and Fruits" training materials, which were added to the vegetable and fruit production guidelines.

Support MVHHs with productive livestock

During the reporting period, ENGINE provided 410 MVHHs with productive livestock (heifers, sheep and goats) based on their interest and capacity (Table 3.8). The accomplishment in this quarter is low due to delay in the selection process for MVHHs.

Table 3.8: Number of MVHHs provided with productive livestock by regions

Region	Number of MVHHs supported		
	Year I and Year II selected MVHHs	Year III selected MVHHs	Total
Tigray	0	125	125
Amhara	122	0	122
Oromia	63	0	63
SNNP	50	50	100
Total	235	175	410

During supervision field visits, ENGINE staff observed that of the 28 heifers provided to 28 MVHHs in Oromia and SNNP Regions in Year II, nine gave birth and households started consuming milk and milk products and generated income from selling surplus milk.

IR4 Rigorous and innovative learning agenda adopted

Planned activities:

- Implement Operational Research (OR)
- Build capacity of MSc students in nutrition
- Establish PhD program in nutrition
- Conduct baseline survey data collection, analysis and report writing
- Implement project M&E system and database
- Conduct data quality assessments at health facilities
- Assist *woredas* in evidence-based health sector planning

IR 4.1: Design and delivery of a research strategy

Strategy 4.1.1: Design and delivery of a research strategy

Birth cohort study

This study aims to find out the effectiveness of direct and indirect interventions targeting maternal and child nutrition and health outcomes. It provides an opportunity to rigorously understand how and why specific strategies and approaches address nutrition and health concerns of vulnerable groups, especially pregnant women and infants.

During this reporting period, the birth cohort study proposal was finalized and submitted to Tufts and Jimma Universities for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. The collaborative research team (Tufts, Jimma and Hawassa Universities) developed the study questionnaire (16 modules), and translated it to the Oromifa language. The English version of the questionnaire was uploaded to digital tablets to be used for data collection.

In mid-November 2013, the research team initiated the field preparation for the study. The team pre-tested the study questionnaire by interviewing 20 mothers in Gera *woreda* (a non-study site) and conducted study site assessments of the three *woredas* (Woliso, Gomma and Tiro-Afeta) to collect health and nutrition-related information. Twenty participants from Tufts, Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNR), Jimma and Hawassa University successfully completed TOT. Training was provided on the use of tablets, data collection tools, data uploading and management, in addition to logistics and study protocol. A schedule for the data collector training was compiled and trainers were assigned to lead module trainings sessions. The TOTs, in turn, trained the six recruited supervisors and 33 enumerators on the use of the digital tablet, the study questionnaire, anthropometric measurement, hemoglobin measurement, pregnancy test and rapid-malaria diagnostic test.

During the last week of December 2013, Tufts distributed all necessary supplies and equipment to the data collection sites. Data collection is expected to start during the month of January 2014, upon receiving IRB approval from Tufts University and USAID approval for purchase of motorbikes.

Agriculture-nutrition survey panel

This study examines the role of ENGINE in affecting nutrition, food security, and livelihoods outcomes through its integrated programming, by answering the following key questions: 1) To what extent, and through which pathways, do ENGINE's nutrition-sensitive agricultural interventions improve food security, dietary intake, and nutrition outcomes, and for whom? 2) What factors predict the adoption and sustainable application of nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices? Part of this analysis will explore household decision-making related to market engagement and the use of income from agricultural sales for improved dietary quality. 3) To what extent have agriculture extension workers integrated nutrition-sensitive approaches and messages into their work? What do they perceive as key barriers or facilitators to doing so? 4) Why does stunting persist in areas (and in households) of relative food surplus?

This quarter the Agriculture-Nutrition study panel proposal was developed and submitted to Tufts and Jimma Universities IRB. The research team developed the questionnaire and translated it into Oromifa and Amharic languages. The team also pre-tested the questionnaire in two languages (Amharic and Oromifa) in Yem Special and Bedele *woredas,* areas similar to the study *woredas*. Before the start of the data collection in February 2014, the feedback obtained from the pretest will be incorporated into the final version of the questionnaire, both as a hard copy questionnaire and in the electronic tablet form. As planned, Tufts, Jimma and Hawassa researchers recruited 20 enumerators and five supervisors for the panel data collection. During the last week of December 2013, the survey coordinator started a rapid assessment of the panel study sites.

Nutrition policy research

The aim of this research is to elicit insights from among key policymakers and stakeholders on the process of implementing interventions along a chain leading from central (government) to the frontline (*woreda*) level in Ethiopia. It also examines cross-sector coordination at the national, regional, zonal, and *woreda* levels. The proposed research will analyze how a range of policies and programs get translated from the design phase (on paper) to the implementation phase (in practice). Nutrition policy research data collection has two parts, national and sub-national level.

During this reporting period, the national policy data was collected and analyzed and the narrative report written. Additionally, the principal investigator (PI) submitted a national policy research abstract entitled "*Effect of Governance structures in Ethiopia on the implementation of nutrition interventions*" to the Micronutrient forum, a global conference to be held in Addis Ababa in June 2014.

EHNRI collaborators planned to finalize the data transcription of the recorded audiotapes of the sub-national data by mid-December 2013. However, this was delayed due to the team members' assignment to the National Micronutrient survey, in different regions of Ethiopia.

Secondary data analysis research

During the first two weeks of November, the Tufts University data analyst travelled to Ethiopia to work with Jimma and Hawassa partners to help move forward the analysis of the respective studies. Three out of seven data analysis research teams have finalized data analysis and reports have been written for the two analyses (Determinants of stunting and the food consumption and commercialization studies). Tufts' PIs submitted three abstracts on the findings on the Determinants of Stunting to the Experimental Biology (EB): (i). Factors associated with stunting in Ethiopian children under 5; A comparison of DHS 2000, 2005 and 2011; (ii). Risk factors associated with stunting in Ethiopian children under 5 vary by wealth quintile; and (iii). Dairy consumption is associated with a lower risk of stunting in Ethiopian children 6-24 months of age.

Research capacity building for MSc thesis support to universities

ENGINE continued research capacity building of local universities and research institutes. This quarter, the project financially supported 13 students MSc thesis research from Hawassa, and Jimma Universities. The students proposed to conduct their thesis research in child and maternal nutrition, nutrition communication, WASH and related areas. To date, ENGINE has supported 40 students from Jimma, Hawassa, Mekele, Gondar and Haromaya Universities. Of these, 20 students completed their thesis work and defended their research with strong academic competence. The universities have submitted the final thesis documents to ENGINE.

Research capacity building for nutrition PhD program

Seven PhD students (two from EHNRI, two from Hawassa University and three from Jimma Universities) have been registered for a joint PhD Human Nutrition program at Jimma University, Ethiopia and Ghent University, Belgium. All students have developed concept notes on ENGINE-related nutrition topics and have submitted them to Jimma and Ghent Universities. Three out of the seven students have been paired with advisors from Ghent University and the rest are in the process of being matched with mentors. One student is currently at Ghent University, Belgium to take PhD courses and work on his PhD proposal with his assigned Ghent professor.

Acute malnutrition operations research studies

VI-ENGINE and Jimma University continued implementing two OR studies on moderate and severe acute malnutrition which started in Year II of the project. VI conducted three supportive supervision trips to ensure quality data collection for both studies.

Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)

The purpose of the MAM OR is to provide evidence for whether there is a need for a Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP) in food-secure settings of rural Ethiopia. The study began in August 2013 in Dedo and Mana *woredas* of Jimma zone, Oromia region where 927 moderately

acutely malnourished children aged 6-59 months were enrolled to be followed for seven months. The information was collected from each study participant at baseline, weekly intervals for 12 weeks and monthly intervals for 3 months until end of November 2013. The baseline, all the monthly and majority of the weekly (up to week eight) data have been entered into the database at the end of November 2013. Twenty-two children had left the study by the end of November due to reasons beyond the control of the project, such as leaving the study area, refusal, and death.

Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)

The objective of the SAM OR is to determine the long-term health outcomes of children age 6-59 months successfully treated for SAM in a community-based management (CBM) program and comparing with a control group of children under-5 in the same community. Recruitment of eligible children started in September 2013 in three woredas (Dedo, Seka Chekorsa and Tiro Afata) of Jimma zone and will continue up to the end of February 2014, by which time the required sample size of 237 cases and 237 controls is estimated to be achieved. Each enrolled study participant will then be followed for one year. One hundred fourteen children (57 cases and 57 controls) were enrolled into the study at the end of November 2013. This was an equivalent of 24 percent of children planned to be enrolled during the entire length of the study, while it was expected to be at 50 percent within this timeframe. This is attributed to the slow rate of discharge of SAM children as "cured" from health facilities. To address this challenge, data collectors and supervisors who are already in the community will support the proper discharge and follow-up for recovered SAM cases. All the data collected at baseline and monthly follow up have been entered in to database.

Qualitative study

A qualitative study looking at community perceptions of malnutrition was planned to be finalized at the start of Year III, with both an internal report and a journal article produced. The data have been collected while analysis and write up were delayed owing to the administrative tax challenges VI has faced. This will be resolved once the future directions on partnership between Save the Children International and VI are resolved (see program management and challenges sections).

IR 4.2: Develop and manage an innovative documentation and dissemination strategy

Baseline Survey

ENGINE completed the baseline impact study in 42 *woredas* (28 intervention and 14 control *woredas*) as baseline in September 2013 and completed the final draft report in November 2013.

Implement ENGINE database

The M&E team continued working on the implementation of an access-based database which captures ENGINE's key performance indicators. In this quarter, ENGINE fully rolled-out the database to all the four regions and used the entered data for this quarter's performance report.

Woreda level planning and review meetings

ENGINE, in collaboration with *woreda*, zonal desk and regional bureau health and agricultural offices, supported and facilitated planning and performance review meetings in 49 *woredas*. *Woreda* education, women's affairs, administration offices and AGP focal persons also participated in the discussions. The meetings were conducted were integrated with regular *woreda* level meetings to plan and review the performance and quality of CHDs, health and nutrition activities, and LES

activities with the ultimate goal of generation of lessons and identification of gaps in the project implementation to improve project performance. A total of 1474 (561 female) health and agriculture workers and experts participated in these meetings. ENGINE presented project overviews, project performance and initiated discussion among the participants of the meetings. The *woredas* also crafted action plans to address identified gaps.

Cross cutting activities: Gender

Planned activities for this quarter:

- Finalize gender strategy and gender mainstreaming guidelines
- Create supervision checklists for gender mainstreaming
- Integrate gender into MIYCN and nutrition sensitive agriculture training sessions

Finalize gender strategy

Adopting the gender strategy for ENGINE was one of the activities that was planned to be carried out last year. However, due to the poor quality of the document submitted by external consultants, it took longer than expected to finalize the deliverable. In this quarter, the document was reviewed by ENGINE team to produce a practical strategy document relevant to the field reality. The final version of the gender strategy will be shared and presented for regional staff and key stakeholders next quarter.

Develop gender mainstreaming guidelines

The gender mainstreaming guidelines were developed with the objective of giving direction to ENGINE staff on how to integrate gender concerns into ENGINE's multi-sector project components. The document highlights the objective and rationale of gender mainstreaming and its meaning; main concepts of gender and how they are related to nutrition; and the specific guidelines on how to integrate gender into current project interventions. The document will be finalized next quarter after being reviewed by ENGINE HQ and regional teams.

Create supportive supervision checklists for gender mainstreaming

This checklist was created to facilitate and ensure the mainstreaming of gender into ENGINE programming during field visits and supportive supervisions conducted by the ENGINE team at all levels.

Integrate gender into MIYCN and program managers training

The gender awareness training was integrated into the MIYCN TOT provided for health workers and the training provided for agriculture and health program managers from the four regions (see IR2).

Data quality issues during the reporting period

ENGINE conducted a quarterly data quality assessment in service delivery sites (school, FTCs, health centers and health posts) in the four target regions. The objective of the assessment was to verify the quality of reported data; assess the reporting and recording system; and implement corrective action based on the findings. To facilitate this, ENGINE adapted a Routine Data Quality Assessment (RDQA) tool developed by the MEASURE Evaluation project into ENGINE's M&E system and used it for the assessment. The result of the RDQA showed that data accuracy was more than 90 percent for most of the indicators reviewed. It also highlighted that recording and reporting practices for ENGINE health and nutrition indicators are integrated into the *woreda* health management information system at some of the ENGINE *woredas*. The assessment also highlighted the importance of standardization of recording and reporting tools across ENGINE supported sites and *woredas*. ENGINE provided prompt feedback to the regions and revised its SOP for data quality to cover all data quality dimensions, reporting and recording guideline and ENGINE database.

Major activities planned in the next reporting period

Project management

- Conduct quarterly regional and subprime review meetings
- Work with regions to launch activities in non-AGP *woredas*
- Implement FtF linkages and experience sharing visits with partners at the regional level

IR1: Capacity for and institutionalization of nutrition programs and policies strengthened

- Support national, regional and *woreda* level nutrition multi-sector establishment and coordination mechanisms for NNCB and NNTC
- Support national level food fortification, micronutrient survey and universal salt iodization
- Provide TA to FMoH in developing and revising harmonized nutrition training materials and nutrition guidelines
- Conduct technical update courses on nutrition including WASH and gender for health science and agriculture TVET college instructors
- Conduct follow-up visits/ supportive supervision visits to PSE institutions
- Continue supporting ACoE for nutrition at Hawassa University.

IR2. Quality and delivery of nutrition and health care services improved

- Implement QI activities for nutrition services at health facilities
- Conduct training on coaching/mentoring for health service providers

- Support quarterly joint nutrition integrated supportive supervision with *woreda* health offices
- Provide multi-sector nutrition and nutrition-sensitive agriculture training for program managers and frontline health and agriculture workers
- Establish mNutrition service for health and agriculture workers including text messages and pre-recorded voice information
- Fast-track development of SBCC materials for HEWs and AEWs that complement the mNutrition service and facilitate their extension work with households and communities
- Issue new contracts for local non-governmental organization (NGO) implementing partners to conduct enhanced Community Conversations (ECCs) in the four regions
- Support *woreda* level community health day (CHD) implementation through planning, logistics management, mentorship and post CHD monitoring and reviews

IR3. Improved Prevention of under-nutrition through community-based nutrition practices

- Disseminate formative research summaries into multi-format packages for policymakers, program managers, front-line workers and communities
- Update SBCC strategy in three core areas: maternal nutrition, IYCF and agriculture-nutrition
- Select creative agency to fast-track development of maternal nutrition messages and materials for target audiences
- Develop additional SBCC job aids for health and agriculture extension workers, complementing the mNutrition service
- Select new MVHHs in ENGINE target *woredas* for homestead and livestock provision
- Promote diversified food production at FTCs and school gardens through demonstration of agronomic practices and food preparation (cooking)
- Support the establishment of improved poultry multiplication interventions through private groups or associations already engaged in poultry production
- Promote asset protection through micro–insurance.

IR4 Rigorous and innovative learning agenda adopted

- Continue implementation of ENGINE OR on birth cohort, agriculture-nutrition panel, SAM and MAM studies
- Write and disseminate report on nutrition policy research results
- Continue secondary data analysis and documentation

- Provide nutrition M&E training for *woreda* agricultural and health offices and facilities (including data presentation and utilization)
- Carry out data quality assessment and supportive supervision for M&E officers in all regions
- Build research capacity building for researchers and postgraduate students (MSc & PhD) in ENGINE partner institutes
- Prepare for ENGINE midterm evaluation

Cross cutting

- Map feasible nutrition sensitive livelihood activities for men and women in new *woredas*
- Conduct WASH mapping and detailed implementation plan for WASH integration
- Finalize gender strategy mainstreaming guidelines and incorporate into project activities and disseminate to key stakeholders

Environmental compliance

ENGINE has continued purchasing animals from the local market to avoid addition pressure on the existing pasture. In addition, 810 MVHHs were trained and planted multipurpose forage trees in their backyard boundaries. In order to protect distributed animals from rampant livestock diseases and to maximize their productivity, 410 MVHHs who received livestock were linked to the nearby public/private veterinary service providers to get animals vaccinated and treated.

Activity description	Mitigation measures	Monitoring Indicator(s)	Output	Comment
			# of people trained	
Provide selected vulnerable households and women's groups with livestock and seedlings for production of fruits and vegetables	Provide training of feed preparation, forage production, livestock management and veterinary services	# of people trained in feed and livestock management	810	810 HHs received training on forage production and feed reserve
	Provide required vaccinations for livestock	# of vaccinations provided to livestock	729	To date, 729 animals have been distributed to 410 households. All animals received a thorough animal health examination by a government veterinary officer